

In addition to his service-related activities, Captain Fitzgerald started a real estate firm specializing in farm and ranch sales, served on the Parks and Recreation Board, the YMCA Board, and founded the Anderson County Soccer Association.

He is a husband to his wife of twenty-eight years, Karen, and a grandfather to two grandsons.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the Fifth District of Texas, I am humbled and privileged to recognize Captain Curtis Fitzgerald. As Calvin Coolidge once said, "The nation which forgets its defenders will itself be forgotten." I for one am committed to ensuring this nation never forgets.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 19, 2008*

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, May 14, 2008. I was not present for the rollcall vote 320.

Had I been present for rollcall 320, the Motion to Instruct Conferees on H.R. 4040, the Consumer Product Safety Commission Reform Act, I would have voted "yea."

#### HONORING CARMELAU MONESTIME

#### HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 19, 2008*

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor Carmelau Monestime and the 30th anniversary of the founding of the first created Haitian radio program in Creole language. The radio program, Express Publicite, has been led for three decades by the founder Mr. Monestime, who is the first radio personality of Haitian descent in South Florida. Mr. Monestime can be considered a communicator by nature.

Born in Gonaives, Haiti Mr. Monestime, began his education at the Institut Brothers of the Christian Instruction. He continued his studies at the Lycee Fabres Geffrard College of the City. In 1957, he earned the position as head of the files section of the Department of Agriculture, in Haiti's natural resources and rural department. In 1964, he immigrated to New York and relocated to Miami, Florida in 1978.

Upon his arrival in Miami, Mr. Monestime immediately became dedicated to the Haitian-American community, and soon after opened Panoram Express Driving School, a Haitian driving school. In 1997, he joined co-founders Ferdinand Forte and Pierre Mendez to create Express Publicite.

Like the Haitian-American population throughout South Florida over the last three decades, Express Publicite has grown tremendously and popularized itself among listeners around the community. When first created, the Station had over 5,000 listeners—today, the Station has nearly 900,000 dedicated listeners throughout South Florida. Pertinent information such as current events and up-to-date news in both the United States and Haiti, which was

previously transferred by word of mouth or distributed through flyers at community events, is now easily accessible on the air waves. Mr. Monestime is very well-respected by those in the radio industry and also by the thousands of fans that listen to him on a daily basis.

Through his many accomplishments and creation of Express Publicite, Mr. Monestime has paved the way for other Haitians in the radio industry by providing a voice for Haitian-Americans in radio. The Station was created as a center to share vital community information. All of these accomplishments have earned Mr. Monestime the title, "Dean of Haitian Radio."

Thus Madam Speaker, I am pleased to introduce today, along with the entire South Florida community, a resolution recognizing the rich history and accomplishments of this remarkable Station and its founder on the occasion of its 30 anniversary. I urge all the Members of this body to join us in congratulating Carmelau Monestime on Express Publicite's 30th anniversary.

#### HONORING THE SARASOTA SOUTH ELKS LODGE #2495

#### HON. VERN BUCHANAN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 19, 2008*

Mr. BUCHANAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Sarasota South Elks Lodge # 2495, which will be recognized at the Florida Elks' State Convention this month for their efforts to improve the quality of life of Sarasota area veterans.

The Elks is one of the leading charitable and service orders in the United States. Since 1917, they have pledged to never forget our nation's veterans.

For the past three years, the men and women of the Sarasota South Elks Lodge have put these words to action by giving generously of their energy and resources to improve the lives of ill, aging, and homeless veterans.

In the last three years, the Sarasota South Elks Lodge has donated \$41,590 in money, clothing and personal items, given 1,390 in voluntary man hours and driven over 4,100 miles in an effort to make a difference in the lives of our veterans.

They have provided food, clothing, and employment opportunities to homeless veterans, made monthly visits with veterans hospitalized at Bay Pines, and provided transportation and companionship to more than 10 veterans who are shut-ins without family in the area. They have adopted the families of two soldiers on active duty in Iraq and Afghanistan. They have been directly involved with 21 military funerals and five flag-raising ceremonies. Finally, they have sponsored annual barbeques during which they have fed and entertained hundreds of veterans.

On behalf of the people of Florida's 13th District, I thank the members of the Sarasota South Elks for their compassionate service to our veterans. I am honored to represent this caring and hardworking organization.

#### RECOGNIZING ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF DON KASSING, PRESIDENT OF SAN JOSE UNIVERSITY

#### HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 19, 2008*

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today along with Congressman MICHAEL HONDA to recognize the accomplishments of Don Kassing, President of San Jose State University. Mr. Kassing has served as the President of the University since 2004 and is retiring this year.

Don Kassing worked nearly three decades in higher education in Illinois, Kentucky, Colorado and California before coming to San Jose State University in 1993. Prior to his appointment as President, Mr. Kassing served San Jose State University as Vice President for the Division of Administration and Finance for eleven years and was responsible for six major administrative units on campus. As Chief Financial Officer, he held overall responsibility for all business and financial affairs of the campus.

Under Mr. Kassing's leadership, the University's department structure was revamped to improve enrollment services. For the most recent admissions cycle, the process for financial aid packaging was revitalized to provide information to students about their financial aid packages earlier, thus enabling them to make enrollment decisions earlier. In part because of these and related changes, the university had record enrollment for Fall 2007 of nearly 32,000 students. These efforts are linked to a reenergized focus on student success in class and involvement in campus life outside of class.

Typically, the University realized about \$11 million annually in private gifts; however, new fundraising efforts under Mr. Kassing's leadership resulted in the doubling of gifts to the University in 2005–06, and a rise to \$50 million in 2006–07, which is the single highest year of fundraising in San Jose State University's history.

Don Kassing has encouraged San Jose State University to engage in externally funded research and education-related activities that have significantly enhanced the University's academic quality while engaging faculty and students in the creation and application of new knowledge. As a result SJSU faculty successfully partner with government agencies, corporations, and private foundations to perform cutting-edge research, public service, and other specialized projects vital to this community of scholars. During Don Kassing's tenure as president, approximately \$212 million has been awarded to support the University's expanding research enterprise, placing San Jose State among the top 200 universities in the country for total R&D expenditures.

Don Kassing will be missed for his work at San Jose State University, for his leadership in the community and for his commitment to excellence. I join the community of students, faculty and staff of San Jose State University in honoring Don Kassing for his contributions and in wishing Don and his wife, Amy, their three children and eight grandchildren, the best as he enters retirement.